7.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 STORMWATER DRAIN

The sediment in the stormwater drain should be removed and the area surrounding the outfalls (i.e. in the river) and the catch basins should be further investigated to determine the extent of contamination. Additionally, a regular maintenance program should be implemented to minimize the entrance of sediment into the storm drain system.

The USACE removed the sediment within the drain lines, and replaced the felt "socks" that lined the associated catch basins in October 2001. Additionally, the area surrounding the catch basins is currently being evaluated as part of the upland investigation.

7.2 IN-WATER PILES

The PCB-containing electrical equipment should be removed as soon as practical (e.g., during the upcoming fish-window: prior to early March 2002), to protect human and ecological receptors.

Removing the impacted sediments is not possible during this in-water period due to lack of time available to consider this issue, as well as the appropriate engineering and permitting needed to support this type of a cleanup operation. Therefore, if the equipment and sediment were to be addressed concurrently, it could probably not occur until 2003. Meanwhile, the equipment would probably continue to release PCBs to the environment. Acting now eliminates the possibility of the ongoing PCB release while only having modest impact on short-term exposure to aquatic biota.

The benefits of the recommended removal are three-fold: a reduction of the mass of PCBs available to be released to the environment; a long-term reduction of risk to sediment-associated biota; and a long-term reduction in the subsequent food-web transfer of PCBs from resident aquatic species to higher orders of fish and wildlife. It is unlikely that there would be significantly increased risks to potential ecological receptors as a result of the removal of the electrical equipment.

In summary, the removal of the PCB-containing electrical equipment is unlikely to result in increased risks to human or ecological receptors either inside or outside the work area. While there may be some short-term increase in direct exposure to some of the aquatic biota, this is not associated with significantly increased risks. In the long-term, the removal action will serve to decrease risks to ecological and human health by removing the continuing source of PCBs in the area.

The nature and extent of the impacts to the sediment should be investigated and the risks from the sediment should be determined.